

# THE \* COMET

BY H. LYLE, Editor and Owner

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At the Post Office at Johnson City, Tenn., as second class matter

## Democratic Ticket

For Governor  
GEN. M. R. PATTERSON  
For Railroad Commissioner  
HON. H. H. HANNAH  
For Representative  
A. S. N. DOBSON

Now let's have that congressional convention and put out a man to win.

C. C. Jackson, a negro, has announced himself a candidate for congress in this district.

We very much fear that the Chattanooga papers will worry themselves sick over the political situation in this district.

Alt Taylor was on the track before Evans was nominated and has no intention of retiring. By the way, what is Evans running for?

Brownlow denies that he has tried to get Taylor off the track. He seems to be devoting his time to keeping a democrat out of the race.

The Bristol Herald is published on the Virginia side of Bristol, but it is carrying the democratic state ticket for Tennessee at its masthead. This should open all ports to it.

A community that would defeat Col. Bill Slater for justice of the peace, as Winchester did, does not deserve to be the home of such a picturesque character and fails to appreciate the man who has made it famous.

The flatorial contention for Washington, Unicoi and Greene counties has been called by Chairman O. M. Dugger to meet in Greeneville on the 30th inst. This county should send delegates. The county has endorsed the candidacy of R. M. Barry, of Unicoi.

All Tennesseans sincerely sympathize with Gen. Malcolm R. Patterson in the great bereavement that has just befallen him in the loss of his devoted wife, at whose bedside he has been since he was nominated for governor. Despite this great sorrow Gen. Patterson will meet the requirements of campaign before him and will satisfy the people that the democracy made no mistake in selecting him as its standard-bearer.

Gov. Cox has appointed Hon. Newton H. White, a farmer of Giles county, to succeed Hon. J. N. McKenzie, deceased, as railroad commissioner until a successor is elected in November. Mr. White declares he will not stand for re-election and will not accept a nomination. He was appointed a member of the first commission by Gov. Taylor in 1897, and was defeated for the nomination in 1898 by the late Mr. McKenzie, who was serving his second term at the time of his death. Mr. White was speaker of the senate in 1891 and is one of the best known democrats in Middle Tennessee.

For twenty-two years The Comet has urged the democrats to run a candidate for congress in this district, and it has not changed its opinion. It has frequently been difficult to convince the "big guns" in the district that they should make the race and lesser lights have been chosen, but the party has not materially suffered thereby. Even a half candidate was better than no candidate at all. It will be impossible to elect a democrat unless one makes the race, and it seems to us that, with nothing to lose and everything to gain, there should be no hesitancy in putting out a candidate. Only let him be a democrat who has not looked upon the republican party when it was in executive session and he'll have smooth sailing.

The news of the death of Mrs. M. R. Patterson at Memphis, Monday afternoon, will be received with great sorrow throughout the state. Immediately after the state convention in which Mr. Patterson was nominated he was called to the bedside of his wife, and has been there constantly since. Her illness, from the first, was of a most serious and distressing nature, and for several days the fatal outcome has been anticipated. The blow is a severe one for Mr. Patterson, and it will require the greatest fortitude on his part to go ahead with the gubernatorial campaign, which now he is in duty bound to undertake. There has rarely been an instance of death under sadder circumstances.—Knoxville Sentinel.

## MRS. PATTERSON PASSES AWAY.

Noble Woman's Sufferings Relieved by Death—Sincere and Loyal in Her Attachments—A Friend to be Loved.

Mrs. Malcolm R. Patterson, wife of Gen. Patterson, democratic nominee for governor of the state of Tennessee, died yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the family home, 1306 Carr avenue.

The death of this brilliant woman was not unexpected. For several months she had been in ill health, and six weeks ago an operation was deemed necessary, and when performed almost placed her life in the balance at that time. This operation she survived, and her condition until last Saturday gave encouragement to the physicians and surgeons who were in constant attendance upon her. Saturday morning she showed signs of sinking and from that time until life took its flight it was a battle between science and the complicating ailments that had predated death almost from the start.

Mrs. Patterson was formerly Miss Sybil Isabelle Hodges, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Hodges, of Carthage, Mo. It was less than three years ago that she was led to the altar by the distinguished Tennessean whose life-partner she became at that time. From this union one child survives, a nine-months' old daughter, who was christened Elizabeth L. Patterson.

### PARENTS SURVIVE HER.

The father and mother of Mrs. Patterson survive her, and will be in attendance at the funeral, which takes place from the family residence this afternoon at 3 o'clock. There is also a brother surviving, L. M. Hodges, a member of the editorial staff of the Philadelphia North American. Word was received from him yesterday afternoon signifying that it would be impossible for him to reach Memphis in time to be present at the interment of the remains of his sister.

During her residence in Memphis Mrs. Patterson took an active interest in social life and literary topics. She was a member of the Nineteenth Century Club and interested herself in club life whenever it was possible to do so. Her ill health kept her from a more active interest in club life than she might have desired, yet she always manifested an interest and co-operated with the various organizations in many ways.

Mrs. Patterson was a lady of unusual graces of person and mind. Mental endowments of the highest order were hers by right of birth. Inherited gifts were supplemented by accomplishments which made her the bright particular ornament of social and intellectual circles. Her manner was gracious, her conversation animated and brilliant. She was not only a woman of superior education, but of wide reading and research. She was as much at home in the discussion of contemporary issues of science and politics as questions of literature, and while her opinions were offered with the charming absence of self assertion they were received with the weight due to one of discriminating taste and deep conviction.

### FRIEND TO BE LOVED.

By inherent nature Mrs. Patterson was sincere and loyal in her attachments, and those who came under the spell of her influence felt that she was a friend to be loved and to be trusted. She incorporated within her affections a tender and sympathetic regard for those who were her husband's friends, and a sure entrance to her confidence was gained by all such. During the long and troublous gubernatorial campaign, which ended in May with the nomination of Mr. Patterson, her belief in him never wavered, and she had a faith in the success of his cause that could have moved mountains. Often the strain on her nervous energies was taxed almost to the breaking point, but she took a firm grip on herself, and maintained a self-reliant frame of mind that reassured Mr. Patterson and gave him strength to keep up the fight until victory was his. Few know that fortitude and real Spartan courage she displayed in this trying ordeal, and none ever saw her when she was not equal to any emergency of disappointment or joy. To those who were constant in their support of her husband her gratitude knew no bounds, and when she expressed it she veiled her words in such a maidenly modest manner that the expression of them was greatly enhanced.

A lovely and lovable woman has gone to claim a rich reward. Her passing is another example of the oft-quoted phrase that "death loves a shining mark." Many a dart shall be cast before he casts down a rarer or more beautiful woman, a woman whose character was like that of Sammel, who in his old age could call on any to come forward and testify against his worth, and none came.

Gen. Patterson remained constantly by the bedside of his wife from the first moment of her critical illness till the end came. His devotion to her was such as might be expected of one who appreciated such a wife to her true value.—Commercial Appeal, Aug. 7.

### Insure with W. B. Harrison.

Why Cy Lyle learned that we had been elected president of a literary society, he wrote to us and suggested that at the next meeting we should discuss the burning question, "Is Beer an Anti-Skeptic?"—(Hardenman Free Press)—Commercial Appeal.

### You always get the best meats at Jackson's.

### W. B. Harrison sells real estate.

Tennessee State Fair, Oct. 8-13

## PLANS OF THE FRISCO ROAD.

Contemplate Connection With the South & Western Road.

According to a report from Nashville it is the plan of the 'Frisco railroad to connect with the South and Western or Seaboard Air Line by building from Cairo, Ill., across the state of Kentucky to the northern terminus of the South and Western now being built from Spartanburg, S. C., to the coal fields of Southwestern Virginia.

Such a report appears almost incredible, but not so much so when it is understood what the 'Frisco or Rock Island system's ambition is. It is well known, as a matter of history, that the 'Frisco had in mind taking into itself the Louisville and Nashville and the Seaboard Air Line railroad. It got its hand on the Seaboard, but one John Gates hustled around and bought enough stock of the L. & N. to take the property out of the hands of its old directors and place it with the Morgan interests, which are distinct from those of the 'Frisco syndicate.

The 'Frisco succeeded in making connection with the Seaboard Air Line at Birmingham and it will be recalled that a stir it caused in hay and grain rates for the southeast, this combination undertaking anything that had been used previously.

Another ambition of the 'Frisco, which was thwarted, was the acquisition of the Tennessee Central railroad by which route it expected to connect with the South and Western or the Seaboard Air Line extension in this region. For a while it was thought that the property had been sold to the 'Frisco. Just why it did not go over to the big western system is a secret of railroad circles and high finance. One claim is that the 'Frisco did not want it, but preferred a route with a better grade.

If the Nashville dispatch be true, the 'Frisco is still ambitious to link hands with the Seaboard Air Line through this region. The big haul of funds, which the Seaboard Air Line secured the other day for prosecuting the building of the South and Western railroad, is thought to have been assisted by 'Frisco money.

The Cumberland corporation is said to be the company which represents the proposed road from Cairo, Ill., to connect with the South and Western. This company is the holding company of the North and South, the Cairo and Cumberland River railroad and the Clinchfield Coal Co. They are interests that are identical with the 'Frisco and the Seaboard Air Line.

The Cairo and Cumberland River railroad proposes to build a line to Clarksville, Tenn., and through the coal region, following as closely as possible the state line of Tennessee and Kentucky, but supposed to penetrate eastern Kentucky along the Cumberland river. The plan is said to include branch lines to Nashville and to Knoxville.

The exceeding haste with which the Southern railway began to survey and to build a road on the Rabun Gap route east of Knoxville, is said to have been brought about by a foreknowledge that the 'Frisco intended to take that route to connect with the Seaboard Air Line after securing the Tennessee Central railroad.

The following is a statement which has been given to the New York Commercial by President Alfred Walter about the construction of the South and Western railroad, which will be of interest to many readers in East Tennessee and North Carolina:

"To a great extent, the coal that is brought from the Clinchfield region will be shipped to the south. We will first look after the building up of the inland markets before turning our attention to the export trade. Later, probably, a great deal will be shipped to southern ports for export markets. What will be the main port for export coal shipment has not been determined. It will be along the southern coast."

Much work on the South and Western has been completed in Virginia. President Walter says, and work on the tunnel through Clinch mountain is moving along. Within three years it is expected it will be completed. Construction forces from that end of the line are now pushing the work into Eastern Tennessee. Most of the tunnels through the mountains in Western North Carolina have been completed. Owing to the scarcity of labor there has been delay in the construction of grade on the new Seaboard feeder, President Walter says, but notwithstanding this, great progress has been made in the work.—Knoxville Journal-Tribune.

### Homo Omnium Horarum.

Hon. Christopher Columbus Collins, the crimson-crested Catiline from the calligous, caloric, calithumpian and canorous county of Carter, is permitting the light of his countenance to shine upon the republican assemblage. He is one of the notables of his party, and whenever the republican lodge is in session he sits in the east. Whenever and wherever there is a convention or a contest, a row or a riot, a fight or a foot race, Christopher Columbus, called Chris for short, is either among the combatants or in the judge's stand. He is neutral in nothing and strenuous in all things. Temperate of speech and mild of voice, he is nevertheless irresistible in argument and always ready to fight a buzz-saw with bare knuckles. In 1890 he stumped East Tennessee in behalf of the gold standard and won tumultuous applause by declaring unambiguously in favor of "a dollar that can stand flatfooted and say 'I know that my redeemer liveth'." The charge that he is Malungone is a calumny. He is chiefly of Scotch blood with a strain of catamount and a dash of grizzly.

Stroke him gently, and he punts; rub his red fur the wrong way, and send for the ambulance. Chris was once for Brownlow, but he is not a man to be tied overlastingly to the chariot wheels of one boss, and he is now, judging from his conversation, somewhat inclined to Evans. The love of freedom is as strong within him as in the eagles that nest among the crags and soar above the summit of his native mountains. In East Tennessee when anybody speaks of the C's it is necessary to state whether reference is made to the three C's railway or to the Hon. Christopher Columbus Collins, the centurion of the crusaders against the Easy Boss. No matter where his opiferous orillanme wavers, Chris is a good fellow.—Nashville American.

The people of Tennessee, and his friends everywhere, sympathize with Hon. Malcolm R. Patterson in the great loss he has suffered in the death of his wife. It is a heavy blow to a strong man. Mrs. Patterson had been ill for many weeks, and for weeks she was on the borderland of death, but with her heroic will she strove hard to live, not from fear of death, but for love of husband and child. She was a noble woman, worthy of her husband's deep love and affection. Gen. Patterson was a most devoted husband, a great lover of domestic life, and no place was so attractive to him as home. For weeks he has been constantly at the bedside of his wife and the strain upon him has been great, but he is a brave man who will, with fortitude, meet and bear his great affliction.—Nashville American.

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### The Two Candidates.

Three months hence the voters of Tennessee will be called upon to elect a governor of the state. A large majority of the white voters are democrats, and the reasonable assumption is that a democratic governor will be elected. It ought to be a certainty, and we believe it is, though not unmindful of the adage that nothing is certain in politics until it happens. The ability of each party nominee is not questioned, and so far as capability goes we shall have that in any event. But capacity, while desirable, is not the only thing to be considered by the white voters of Tennessee in electing a governor. Mr. Patterson may lose some democratic votes, but he will receive practically no negro votes. Mr. Evans may receive some democratic votes, and he will certainly receive the vote of practically every negro who votes, and there will be a special effort on their part to vote. A republican governor can be of no possible benefit to Tennessee. The state has had two republican governors since the war, and the experience ought to be enough to satisfy it. Mr. Evans might be an improvement on the republican governor's we have had, but his political record does not justify such assumption, even though there has been a material change in conditions. Personally Mr. Evans is a genial gentleman, more amiable man and neighbor than Wm. G. Brownlow. Governors are chosen not for personal but political reasons. If we merely "vote for the man" it is easy enough to find a democrat who measures up in character and ability with any republican the state can show or has produced.

Character and personal qualities being equal, no democrat can prefer a republican to a democrat. Nobody can pretend that a republican can give a better administration of affairs in Tennessee than a democrat. There has never been a republican administration in any southern state which that state did not regret. In the south voting in a state election is quite a different thing from voting in a national election. There are republicans who have come from elsewhere and settled in the south, and who, while continuing to vote the republican ticket in national elections, locally vote the democratic ticket. H. Clay Evans is not one of them. He is intensely a republican, with a thorough contempt for the democratic party. If he had his way there would never be a democrat in office, in Tennessee or elsewhere. Mr. Evans was born in Pennsylvania and Mr. Patterson in Alabama. Mr. Evans is a much older man than Mr. Patterson, and each has been a citizen of Tennessee for about the same length of time. But in sentiment, in sympathy, in love of the south, its history, people, manners, customs, sentiments and traditions they are wider apart than the points of their origin. Mrs. Evans has held one local office and four federal offices. Mr. Patterson has held one local and one federal office. In congress Mr. Patterson made a speech in which he paid such a tribute to the south, his beloved mother, as only a southerner can feel. Let any southern democrat read Mr. Evans' record in congress and approve it if he can. The leading republican newspaper in Tennessee refused to endorse at least one of his votes and more than one of his utterances which suggested the spirit of not only political but sectional malignancy.

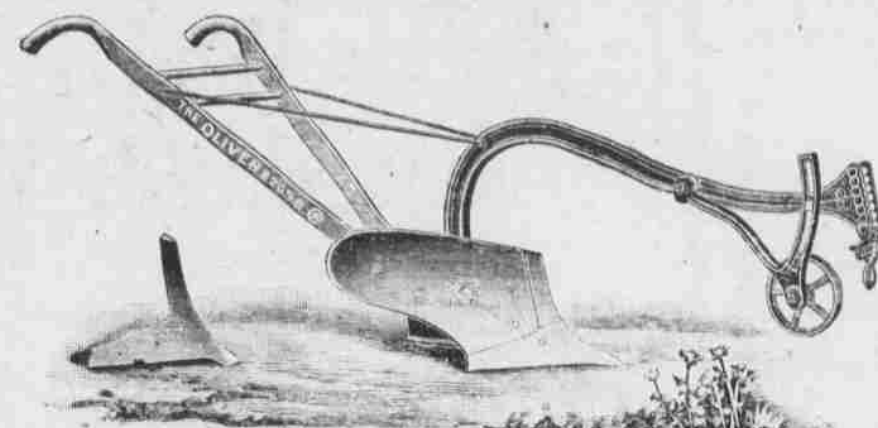
Mr. Evans is a thrifty man. He has made money in Tennessee. Doubtless he wants to see the state prosper materially, as does every intelligent citizen. But if he has ever shown any honest sympathy or interest in it in any other way, except in trying to make it republican and to get an office those who have watched his career and heard his speeches in East Tennessee and observed him addressing negro audiences in Hamilton county in the days when an unrestricted ballot made it possible to vote Georgia negroes in Tennessee, have never been able to detect it. We have nothing personally to say against Mr. Evans, and he can say nothing personally against Mr. Patterson. We shall discuss them politically and as public men who are asking high office at the hands of the voters of Tennessee. Mr. Patterson is a thorough democrat. He has always voted the democratic ticket. His record will not suffer by thorough investigation. In public office he has been clean, capable and devoted to duty. He has been the victim of various falsehoods, and invites and challenges and earnestly desires the closest scrutiny of his record. The remarkable campaign he made for the nomination for governor under the greatest disadvantages showed his remarkable physical vigor and vitality and is evidence that he has taken care of his body. It is as sound as his mind, which is clear, logical, masterful. His courage is unsurpassed. It was a revelation to the people whose confidence he sought, and his enemies were forced to concede it. He is bold, resolute, unflinching, yet modest and courteous. He does not deal in personalities, but legitimate subjects he discusses with a vigor few politicians would dare to show. His ability is unquestioned, and Mr. Evans has not the slightest advantage of him on that score. He is eager to meet Mr. Evans in debate, while the latter has no idea of meeting him.

If the democrats of Tennessee want a candidate who has ability, courage, integrity and genuine patriotism in a marked degree they can find no possible reason for failing to earnestly support Malcolm R. Patterson.—Nashville American.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS  
REPRESENTATIVE.  
We are authorized to announce Dr. A. S. Dobson as a candidate for Representative in the General Assembly for Washington county at the ensuing November election.

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